



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
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Deputy Paedar Toibin
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

1st March 2022

PQ Number: 5513/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of young persons that have been referred to CAMHS by county in each of the past five years; the length of the average waiting list; the longest waiting time in each county in the same period; the number of young persons that have been diagnosed with ADHD by county in each of the past five years; the number that have been advised to engage in psychotherapy in each county in the same period; and the average wait time and the longest wait time for psychotherapy in each county for each of the past five years. -Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Toibin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Many children with queried ADHD are referred to Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). CAMHS is a specialist clinical service that provides assessment and treatment to children and young people under 18 who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorders, such as moderate to severe anxiety disorders, depression, ADHD, psychosis etc. that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health team. CAMHS community mental health teams (CMHTs) provide clinical assessment, formulation, diagnosis and multi-disciplinary interventions to children and adolescents based on their identified needs.

Community CAMHS Waiting times

Waiting lists for CAMHS services are not broken down by referral query therefore our waiting list data is generic to child and adolescent mental health difficulties. There are two types of referral; an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high risk presentations are seen as soon as possible and this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe. The CAMHS referral teams meet every week to review all referrals and to assess the risk to the young person. Waiting lists vary according to Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) where although some areas have relatively short waiting lists regrettably waiting times are longer in other counties. The reasons for differences around the country relate to availability of specialist CAMHS clinicians, current vacancies and difficulties in recruiting



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in an international context. CAMHS wait lists are also related to capacities in other parts of the system where young people may not receive early intervention and thus their needs escalate necessitating referrals to CAMHS

Waiting lists for community CAMHS are described below

2017				
CHO	Referrals Accepted	% offered Appointment within 12 weeks	Wait List	Wait List > 12 mths
CHO 1	837	62%	203	10
CHO 2	1109	97%	36	0
CHO 3	1994	85%	255	43
CHO 4	1466	68%	737	205
CHO 5	1210	84%	140	3
CHO 6	1604	75%	373	2
CHO 7	1689	78%	241	1
CHO 8	2093	78%	299	52
CHO 9	986	65%	135	4
Total	12988	78%	2419	320

2018				
CHO	Referrals Accepted	% offered Appointment within 12 weeks	Wait List	Wait List > 12 mths
CHO 1	1030	81%	263	13
CHO 2	1247	98%	29	0
CHO 3	1593	85%	239	68
CHO 4	1573	65%	752	163
CHO 5	1178	91%	186	31
CHO 6	1650	71%	353	5
CHO 7	1796	77%	183	0
CHO 8	2319	78%	329	31
CHO 9	869	78%	192	3
Total	13255	80%	2526	314



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2019				
CHO	Referrals Accepted	% offered Appointment within 12 weeks	Wait List	Wait List > 12 mths
CHO 1	1095	71%	329	39
CHO 2	1257	98%	35	0
CHO 3	1391	84%	188	4
CHO 4	1520	65%	619	145
CHO 5	1393	82%	144	3
CHO 6	1641	69%	412	19
CHO 7	1642	85%	144	0
CHO 8	2294	76%	268	2
CHO 9	957	73%	188	0
Total	13190	78%	2327	212

2020				
CHO	Referrals Accepted	% offered Appointment within 12 weeks	Wait List	Wait List > 12 mths
CHO 1	1109	67%	407	60
CHO 2	1138	94%	43	0
CHO 3	1292	92%	240	43
CHO 4	1625	69%	448	98
CHO 5	1179	86%	266	0
CHO 6	1492	70%	364	14
CHO 7	1745	95%	265	9
CHO 8	2098	74%	432	30
CHO 9	853	73%	290	12
Total	12531	79%	2755	266



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2021				
CHO	Referrals Accepted	% offered Appointment within 12 weeks	Wait List	Wait List > 12 mths
CHO 1	1309	59%	351	8
CHO 2	1412	96%	129	0
CHO 3	1419	87%	385	91
CHO 4	1512	72%	702	105
CHO 5	1324	68%	294	13
CHO 6	1864	79%	510	4
CHO 7	2766	84%	99	0
CHO 8	2483	76%	599	28
CHO 9	1184	68%	306	12
Total	15273	75%	3375	261

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services